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An

Revised March 14th 1825

Epay on

Gastritis

by

Alfred Friend of Virginia

Nov. 6th A.D. 1824

Apr. 18. 1881

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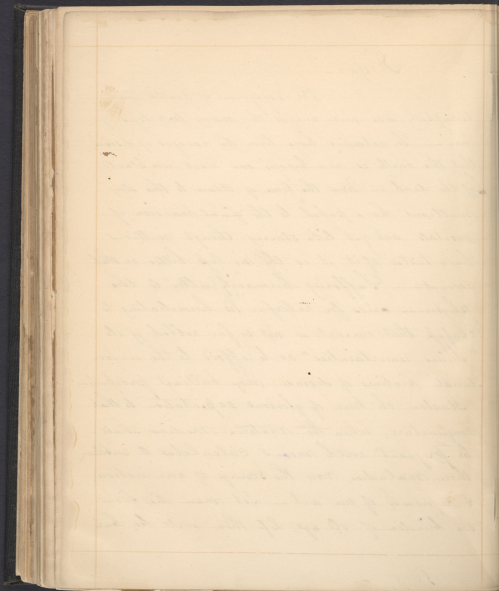
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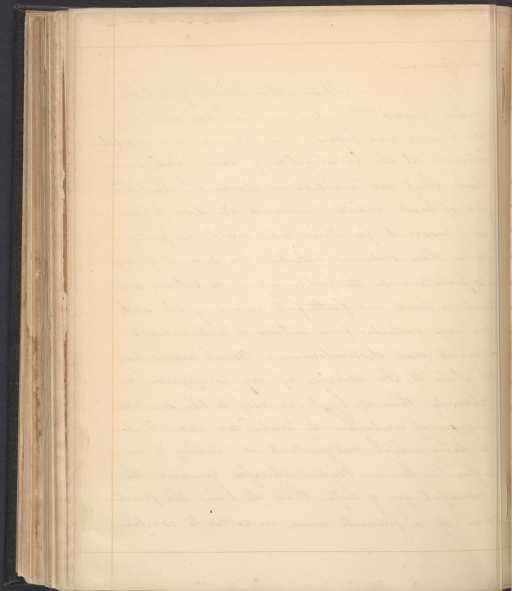
Preface-

The enjoyment of health uninterrupted was never one of the many privileges of man. He continues to have been the ravages of disease, that this earth is now become our vast receptacle of the dead. From the time of Adam to this day millions have passed to the final mansion of mortals and yet like slavery though millions have tasted of it, it is the no less bitter on that account. Suffering humanity utters to the physician, cries for relief. 'Tis humiliating to confess, that our art is not so far robbed of its "glorious uncertainties" as to afford to the unfortunate victims of disease more brilliant prospects. Hasten oh time of glorious expectation to that conjuncture, when the *Materia Medica* shall be pregnant with means calculated to subdue those maladies, now the scourge of our nation & reproach of our art. Let man die from the burden of old age, life then will be but



a span

I should willingly feel the
weighty responsibility, which devolves upon those who
presume to give lessons, even the essay, a successful
attempt at the investigation of some medical
fact that men "walketh in darkness." But the
joy of heart, which transcends all description
is reserved for those who wield the pen, of
more than ordinary talent. The summit of my
expectation in the following dissertation, is to
give a lucid and faithful record of its sub-
ject as collected from authors of acknowledged
merit and distinction. Much rather had
I glide to the service of my profession, in
obscurity, than subject myself to the scruti-
nizing eye of criticism by writing an essay. But
to avoid which and graduate is contrary to an
inflexible law. For me therefore remains the
momentary joy of hope, that its being the produc-
tion of a juvenile mind, impelled to exertion



from necessity, will so far apologize for its inaccuracies, as to cause oblivious mantle to shroud them—

Gastritis—

If any disease in medical philosophy demand the particular attention of the student of medicine, on account of the importance of the health of its seat to the well being of the animal economy it is indubitably gastritis— Located in an organ, individually possessing a greater number of sympathies perhaps, than every other part of the human fabric collectively, it is natural to infer that it will carry with rapidity to awful eternity the unfortunate sufferer unless bridled by energetic, powerful and efficient means—

Symptoms— Except the cuticle, nails, hair, and hardest part of the teeth, every portion of the body is subject to inflammation— By Dr Cullen, inflammation of the stomach is defined "Pyrexia typhodes; in epigastrio ardor."

My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst.

and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

J. H. [Signature]

Enclosed for you are the documents which you requested.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

J. H. [Signature]

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

J. H. [Signature]

et dolor, ingestis quibuscumque auctus; vomendi cupiditas
et ingesta protinus rejecta; singultus." To the first
part of this definition there is some objection, in
as much as the fever in gastritis bears but little
similarity to typhus, the general debility and
faintness of the pulse being excepted; and the more
marked symptoms of typhus rarely develop
themselves. Dr. Cullen's definition, however,
comprehends the chief symptoms; the stomach
is acutely pained, and accompanied with a
sense of burning, though the pain is not
uniformly fixed to the region of this organ
but extends to the false ribs and sometimes
shoots to the back. If the mildest articles be re-
ceived into the stomach such is its morbid irritability
that incessant vomiting, a prostration of muscular
power and even syncope ensue, the patient com-
plains of anxiety and anguish at praecordia;
the pain is always aggravated by external pressures
tho' an occasional is not so constant

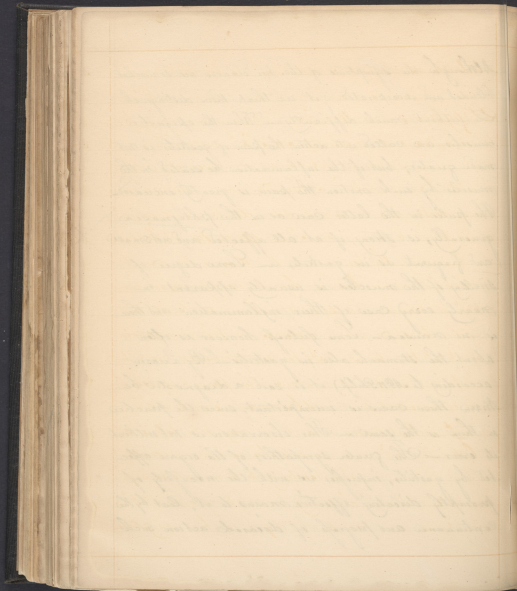
a symptom as vomiting. The pulse is frequent
contracted, small, more or less hard and occasionally
intermitting. Bursarius (according to A.P.W. Phillips) ob-
serves that the pulse is sometimes strong, but this
fact we conceive can seldom occur, when the charac-
teristics of this disease are well developed, because
of the powerful sympathy that manifestly exists between
the stomach and arterial system. The thirst is
intolerable; its gratification affords some respite
from pain, but is deceptive and transitory - the fluid
being soon rejected. The bowels are costive and obsti-
nately so, if the inflammation shall have extended to
them and the incessant vomiting precludes the possibility
of opening them, by the administration of medicine by
the mouth. When great prostration of strength
with faintings, a short interrupted respiration, cold
clammy sweats and hiccups occur with cold extremities
and an intermittent pulse, the conjuncture is hopeless
and the patient soon removed beyond the sphere of
earthly trials and tribulations.

The Anomalous Symptoms of gastritis are manifest. The patient sometimes complains of Dyspnea, which does not arise as is commonly imagined in consequence of the extension of the inflammation to the lungs, but from the inflammation of the stomach rendering the descent of the diaphragm painful. It is evident that the nearer the inflammation is to the diaphragm, the greater will be the dyspnea. Another anomalous symptom attending gastritis is hydrophobia. For this symptom it is exceedingly difficult to account though it supervenes to many acute disorders. Gastritis is sometimes attended by convulsions, which arise from irritation of the *primæ viæ* rather than the disease itself. Besides these, there are many more anomalous symptoms which occur from delirious sympathy as pain and inflammation in the great toe, acute sensation in the groin &c. &c.

Diagnostic symptoms - The pains of gastritis may possibly though not easily be mistaken for

other pains of the stomach. In spasms and
glutulent pains of this organ, the pulse is natural
or is little altered, that if this were the only
diagnostic we should seldom err; nor are these
pains accompanied by that sudden prostration of
muscular power, which attends gastritis. Vomit-
ing in them is not a symptom universally atten-
dant nor is pain and vomiting certainly excited
by ingesta. One of the best diagnostic symptoms
of gastritis, is the augmentation of *præcordium*, when
præcordium is made on the epigastrium. In these
there is no increase of pain from *præcordium* nor is
hiccup so constant a symptom. The voice of a
patient labouring under gastritis is compara-
tively free and his cries piercing, whereas in
spasm of the stomach there are a suffocation
and contraction, amounting oftentimes to a total
suppression of voice. It has been con-
sidered difficult to distinguish gastritis from
an inflammation of the epigastric muscles.

Although the symptoms of the two diseases are somewhat blended and incorporated yet we think them distinguishable without much difficulty. When the epigastric muscles are called into action, the pain of gastritis is not made greater; but if the inflammation be seated in the muscles by such motion the pain is greatly increased. The pulse in the latter case as is the phlegmasia generally, is strong, if at all affected and not small and frequent as in gastritis. Some degree of swelling of the muscles is usually apparent in nearly every case of their inflammation and there is no nausea—some fulness however is often about the stomach also in gastritis—By Quarin (according to A.P.M. Philip) it is said a diagnostic between these cases is unimportant, since the practice in them is the same—This observation is not without its error—The greater sympathies of the organ affected by gastritis, impresses us with the necessity of promptly directing effective means to it, lest by the continuance and progress of diseased action such



unrelenting symptoms shall arise as bid defiance
to the power of medicine.

Prognosis— Boerhaave in enumerating the
terminations of gastritis says "It used to termi-
nate like all other inflammatory diseases into
health, suppurating, schirrous, cancerous, gangre-
nous distempers or into sudden death itself, which
is hastened by convulsions." As in the phlegma-
sia generally, the tendency of this disease to admit
of resolution is known, by its having arisen from
a slight cause, the symptoms being moderate and
yielding to appropriate remedies in the commence-
ment of the disease. If the symptoms are violent
and do not suffer remissions, the period of resolu-
tion is generally past within twenty four hours.
In less violent cases however, it may take place at
a later period when considerable remissions occur.

The tendency to terminate in sup-
puration is ascertained by the continuance of the
symptoms in a moderate degree without any con-

siderable remission - The existence of an abscess is known by a remission of pain preceded by rigors; but a sense of weight and anxiety about the praecordia remain to harass the patient - When these symptoms occur the pulse is diminished in frequency, but is shortly afterwards again increased with rigors, marked exacerbations, in the afternoon and evening, night sweats and other symptoms indicative of hectic fever -

Strong evidence of the tendency to gangrene is offered, by the symptoms continuing unsubdued or unmitigated notwithstanding the judicious and well directed practice resorted to, in the early part of the disease; and when haemiplegia is indicated by the sudden cessation of pain; by the pulse continuing its frequency but growing weaker, by delirium and other marks of increasing debility - The event of gastritis is seldom favourable, as the patient is usually destroyed by the violence of the attack or else it termi-

rates in suppuration, ulceration or gangrene.

The danger of an imposthume of the stomach must be evident to all. It usually proves fatal unless it burst into the stomach, the matter be discharged by vomiting or stool & the ulcer speedily healed. Notwithstanding the opening of the abscess into the stomach, cases are recorded, in which death took place as a consequence from the ulcer left. These cases sometimes terminate very suddenly by hæmorrhage. Adhesion sometimes takes place between the stomach and abdominal parietes from inflammation and then the abscess may burst externally.

The termination in gangrene is as unfavourable as can be imagined, for it proves uniformly and speedily fatal - Its termination in either suppuration or gangrene is an event to be studiously avoided, but of the two evils, choose suppuration as the least, for one case is recorded in which the contents of

an abscess were externally discharged, so that it became necessary in the space of nearly three years to keep the opening closed by compresses and bandages. — Mankind are exceedingly tenacious of life and submit to sufferings almost intolerable to sustain it. — Peritonitis, sometimes, originates and proves fatal in consequence of the bursting of an abscess into the abdominal cavity. — The modern writers agree generally that Schirous, & Cancer have their origin from a cause different from that of inflammation and are therefore considered by them not the result of inflammation as formerly believed. — Dr. Gibbon says "As regards the immediate cause of Cancer innumerable Hypotheses have been framed. — That which approaches nearest to truth, it seems to me, ascribes the disease to animalcular origin or as contended by Adams, and Carmichael to the presence of hydatids, — thus giving to Cancer an independent vitality."

in which I have received information, is that
there is no person in the office of the
city clerk, who is the only person
who is authorized to receive
money for the city, and to issue
receipts for the same. I have
learned from the city clerk, that
the Corporation of the City of
New York, is the only
body which is authorized to
receive money for the city, and
to issue receipts for the same.
I have also learned, that the
City of New York, is the only
body which is authorized to
receive money for the city, and
to issue receipts for the same.
I have also learned, that the
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body which is authorized to
receive money for the city, and
to issue receipts for the same.

Such is the sympathy that exists between the stomach and other vital organs, that gastritis occasionally seems to prove fatal on this account only — Cullen observes "From the sensibility of the stomach, and its communication with the rest of the system, it will be obvious that the inflammation of this organ by whatever causes produced, may be attended with fatal consequences — In particular by the great debility, which such an inflammation suddenly produces, it may quickly prove fatal without running the common course of inflammations." And Boerhaave as before said observes that it occasionally causes sudden death with convulsions — Causes of gastritis — The remote predisposing causes of this disease, are the same as in other inflammatory diseases — Among the exciting causes of this disease, the application of cold, in various ways holds a conspicuous place.

one cause being more frequent than the checking of
perspiration from cold drinks - Acid substan-
ces frequently excite this disease and especially
when the mucus of the stomach, has been so alter-
ed and irritated as to execute its destined pur-
pose badly; and it is a fact known and acknowledged
and deserves to be recollected that those substances
most acid to the taste are not those which when
taken into the stomach, excite the greatest irritation.
The spices, for example though strongly affecting
the sense of taste, are frequently received into
the stomach without resulting inconvenience
and tartarised Antimony, though quite insipid
occasionally excite the most violent - All sub-
stances however, strongly affecting taste, irri-
tate the stomach in some degree and if used
immoderately by the predisposed may excite
gastritis - Drastic emetics and Cathartics,
have been ranked as causes of this disease
and are no doubt the causes occasionally

Since they are possessed of irritating powers—
The more irritating articles of diet, have also been
charged with exciting this disease. The immedi-
ate use of animal food and fermented liquors
very readily excite it in the predisposed,
and renew it in those lately recovered—Over-
distention applies a very hurtful irritation
to the stomach—Mechanical Causes frequently
produce this disease—as a blow on the epigas-
tric region, a wound of the stomach or some
contiguous part, the pressure of the ensiform
cartilage from dislocation or fracture—
When gastritis arises from inflammation of the
neighboring parts it is symptomatic—I have
now enumerated the chief occasional causes
of gastritis—Malignant fevers are so frequen-
tly accompanied with gastritis and enteritis
that we are induced to suppose their cause
to attack the stomach primarily, & perpetrate
locally its deleterious effect—In eruptions

Joins it occasionally supervenes on the sudden reception of the eruption and probably soon runs into gangrene - an event confirmed by the great debility that attends and post mortem examinations

Treatment of gastritis - Usually the indications are very obvious in a disease so violent and affecting so important a viscus - In the treatment of the phlegmasia, venesection is the sheet anchor of hope and in no case is it carried to a greater extent than in gastritis.

As soon as its symptoms are developed the lancet should be drawn from its case and a quantity of blood taken, proportionate to their severity or carried as far as the habit will bear, and the smaller and weaker the pulse provided the disease is idiopathic, informs us that early and copious bleeding is the more necessary. By Dr. Caldwell and the annotator of Cullen's first lines, blood

is directed to ~~be~~ drawn to considerable extent in small and frequently repeated bleedings; but by Professor Chapman copiously. Blood-letting in ordinary cases is called into requisition to diminish the strength of the pulse; but in this instance it is employed to increase it and its efficacy is proportional to the degree of increase of strength and diminution of hardness of the pulse. A correct discrimination should therefore be made between a strong and a hard pulse. Language cannot convey too forcibly the importance of early bloodletting in this disease. The circulation sometimes in the course of a few hours becomes so languid as to render it impossible to detract the requisite quantity of blood - the patient falling a sacrifice to a disease originally controllable by bold, resolute and decisive practice. After copious

I should be glad to see you at the
house and to hear of your
progress in the study of
the history of the
country. I am sure you will
find it very interesting and
profitable. I have been
thinking of writing you
for some time but have
been so busy that I could
not find time. I hope you
will be able to write to me
soon. I am very
truly yours,
J. B. [Signature]

haemorrhage the symptoms of gastritis totally disappear, but the cephalgia is transitory and a recurrence of the disease almost always happens - The repetition of haemorrhage must be regulated as in the phlegmasia generally - The less the remission after the first bleeding, the sooner must it be repeated and to the greater extent - Evacuations by the bowels must be elicited by cathartic glysters, and not by the exhibition of purgatives by the mouth, which by exciting vomiting would aggravate every symptom of the disease - To this as to all general rules there are exceptions.

Overdistention of stomach is sometimes the cause of gastritis and in this case the patient is tormented with incessant, ineffectual efforts to vomit - The less it is evident must be removed - Under such circumstances emetics and cathartics taken by the mouth are the only effectual means; but as a hurtful irritation would be excited in the stomach, by the exhibition of

an emetic, the cathartics only is admissible, & still farther to solicit the due action of the stomach, the bowels should be excited by glysters. By these means a part of the stomach's contents will pass into the intestines and the remainder expelled by vomiting. In all cases as soon as the disquietude of the stomach shall be allayed, Calomel should be administered. Calomel is preferable to all purgatives as it is less irritating, insipid, and of considerable specific gravity. It should be administered in pill.

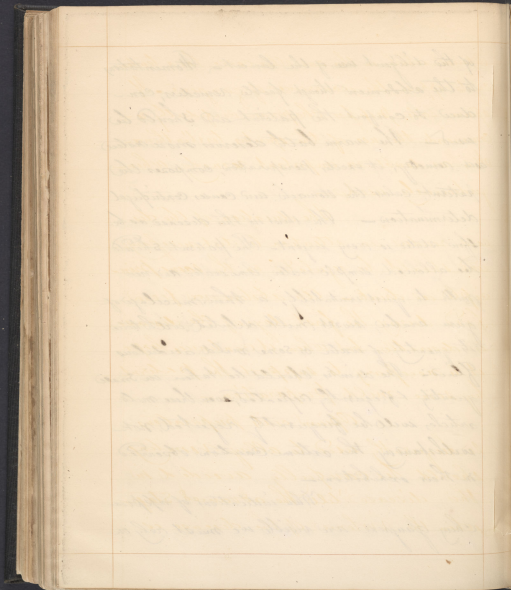
When this disease has been excited by acrid or poisonous substances received into the stomach, we must also give medicines by the mouth. If its specific corrector or Counterpoise be unknown we must endeavour to promote the vomiting by a combination of Emetic tartar with Opium or with the sulphate of Copper. The dose should be large i.e.

as the susceptibility of the stomach is almost destroyed in these cases, when a narcotic poison has been swallowed - Even large doses will sometimes fail to produce the desired effect. We may perhaps succeed by distending the stomach with warm water; applying Cataplasms of tobacco to the orbicular cordis, tickling the fauces with a feather or an injection of tartar emetic - These resources failing we should have recourse to Professor Puyrier's instrument for pumping out the offending matter; and if we can have access to it we should think it proper in the first instance Cathartic medicines in the form of pills, should be administered in those cases when the poison has been so long swallowed as to warrant the belief that it has passed into the intestines - Emetics are good adjuvants, for while they relieve the lower bowels, they tone by sympathy to

increase the peristaltic motion of the whole
alimentary canal - Mucilaginous me-
ments are useful even when diarrhoea
is an attendant, for they allay irritation &
expel any offending matter the intestines may
hold - Local blood-letting though so fre-
quently resorted to in the phlegmasia gen-
erally is seldom resorted to in gastritis, but
it may be employed in this with the same good
effect and is peculiarly adapted to those
symptomatic cases in which general blood-
letting is inadmissible or at least an am-
biguous remedy - It should be always pro-
ceeded upon, unless general blood-letting prove
suddenly effectual - Blister to the
epigastrium are more frequently employed
than local blood-letting and produce results
the most pleasing, if applied after the hard-
ness of the pulse has abated in consequence

of the diligent use of the lancet - Stomentations
to the abdomen though feeble remedies, con-
duc to comfort the patient and should be
used - The warm bath deserves more notice
as a remedy; it excites perspiration, composes the
patient, calms the stomach and causes centrifugal
determination - The thirst in this disease as be-
fore stated is very urgent - The patient should
be allowed simple water, lime water and new
milk to quiet irritability, a thin mucilage of
gum arabic, sweet milk diluted with twice
its quantity of water or some mild acidulous
fluid - The drinks should be taken in small
quantity & frequently repeated, even these mild
articles will be frequently rejected, not-
withstanding the extreme caution observed
in their exhibition -

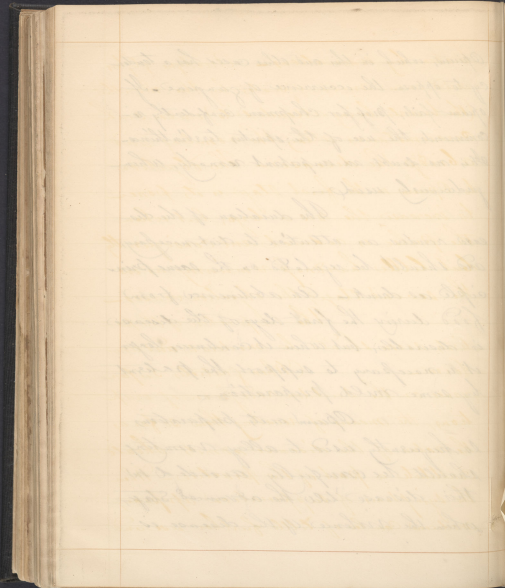
When indications of approa-
ching gangrene are visible we must rely on



Opium, which in this and other cases has a tendency to oppose the occurrence of gangrene. If opium fails, Professor Chapman confidently recommends the use of the *spiritus terbinthinae*. It is no doubt an important remedy, when judiciously used.

The duration of the disease renders an attention to diet necessary, and should be regulated on the same principle as drink. An abstinence from food during the first days of the disease is desirable, but when it continues longer it is necessary to support the patient by some mild preparation.

Opium or its preparations so frequently used to allay vomiting should be carefully avoided in this disease till the advanced stage, when the violence of the disease is



broken by evacuations - Anodyne glysters
and even mild opiate, by the mouth
(the bowels being attended to) under such
circumstances, allay the vomiting and
abridge the disease - The objection
to Opium in the first stage is its power
to increase the vis a tergo, but when
the pulse is reduced and consequently
but little hardness remaining as in
the second stage, the objection ceases -

The temperature of the pa-
tient, now should be moderate and uni-
form - (When gastritis, Super-
poves on the sudden reception of erup-
tions, the means of recalling them so far as
the nature of the disease admits, should
constitute a part of the practice - When
the symptoms of suppuration appear,
Medicines can be of little further use and

if the patient is saved it is by the acci-
dental seat of the abscess. If it opens
into the stomach, irritating articles of diet
must be avoided till the ulcer is
healed. When by its bursting an ulcer
is formed externally, it should be
treated surgically. Gangrene of the sto-
mach is always fatal.

To the professors of this
university, I feel grateful for the information
derived from their lectures - that ~~they~~ ^{they} may
fill their chairs with the same credit as here
- and enjoy health & happiness is the
sincere wish of - the Author

